Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee
Policy Co-Chair:
Adrian Miller, Olympic Resource Management

January 20, 2014

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Adrian Miller, Co-Chair

SUBJECT: TFW Policy Committee Quarterly Update since August 2015 and Year-End Report

The Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee (Policy) continues to manage a full workload driven by internal process deadlines and priorities directed by the Forest Practices Board. The major topics are summarized below.

Existing Priorities

Water Typing

Type F

Policy is narrowing our focus around 5 tranches of topics associated with Type F: electrofishing, off channel habitat, default physicals criteria, habitat, and restorability. While the progress on these specific topic areas is highly variable, they are all necessary components to be discussed if we are to reach consensus on a set of actions for the Board to consider by the November 2016 meeting for a permanent water typing rule.

Policy successfully convened the Electrofishing Workshop in January 2015 and two field trips dedicated to off-channel habitat, one on the westside (March 2015) and one on the eastside (April 2015). Policy also delegated much of the electrofishing technical work to a technical group, which first convened on October 5 and has met again on several dates, though their work is not yet complete. TFW Policy reviewed and approved the technical group's purpose statement acknowledging that it did not address all issues associated with this topic. To date, the subgroup has developed a list of questions from Policy to address that they view are within the scope of the approved purpose statement.

Policy also reviewed and approved the AMPA's recommendations for the Off-Channel Habitat Proposal Initiation submitted by the DNR caucus. This includes both Science and Policy adaptive management tracks. While each task has separate timeframes, we anticipate a six month time horizon for completing the agreed to tasks, and then an additional few months for a "hybrid" track that incorporates science and policy. Based

TFW Policy's direction for this work and the established Board Manual time frames, the soonest TFW Policy would be able to provided recommendations related to off channel habitat will be at the May 2016 Board meeting and the latest would be the August 2016 Board Meeting.

Policy caucuses agree that the existing direction from the Board does not comprehensively address all caucuses' issues surrounding water typing. At the same time, there is general agreement that the focus on the discrete issues of "off-channel habitat" and "the use of electrofishing in conducting protocol surveys" has been helpful in moving the larger issue forward.

Policy is discussing how to evaluate the physicals component of the existing rule within the context of meeting the Board's stated goal of a new permanent water typing rule.

Policy is also discussing how to address the suite of questions and issues not captured within the scope of the electrofishing group and is currently exploring ways to bridge the concepts of habitat and restorability that are part of the existing rules to a conceptual approach that hinges on field based methods for determining the F/N break. These are fledgling discussions and while this is the current framework of the discussion, it should not be read to infer that there is consensus on this approach and thus these two topic areas have yet to be identified within the matrix.

Due to the amount of work required to adequately address all aspects of getting to a new permanent water typing rule, Policy anticipates spending much of 2016 focused on Type F discussions, as outlined in the attached matrix.

Type N

Policy has been inactive on Type N due to the Board's direction to focus on Type F. The remaining issue surrounds the development of "wet season defaults" for identifying the Upper-Most Point of Perennial Flow (UMPPF).

CMER Work

Work from TWIGs and/or SAGs

- Received and approved the study objectives, problem statement, and critical research questions for the Unstable Slopes TWIG.
- Received draft study objectives, problem statement, and critical research questions for the Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project TWIG, and provided redirection to the TWIG.
- Received draft study objectives, problem statement, and critical research questions for the Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Program TWIG, and provided redirection to the TWIG. Upon receipt of a revised memo outlining the objectives, problem statement, and critical research questions, Policy approved with considerations for the TWIG in developing the BAS Alternatives Analysis.
- Approved the Riparian Scientific Advisory Group (RSAG) to develop a feasibility study for vegetation remote sensing tools.

CMER studies

- Received and took action on the *Effects of Forest Roads and Tree Removal In or Near Wetlands of the Pacific Northwest: A Literature Synthesis.*

- Received and supported the *Wetlands Research and Monitoring Strategy: Forest Practices and Wetlands.*

CMER Budget

Policy receives regular budget and progress updates from the AMPA and CMER Project Managers. In April 2015, Policy reviewed and approved the 2015-17 biennial budget. Many Policy caucuses participated in the multi-stakeholder legislative effort that ended in a successful budget allocation for the current fiscal year. In the fall, Policy discussed that the budget was not being spent at the anticipated rate, and is working to identify ways to use the funding in a timely manner. TFW Policy will provide any recommended changes to the 2015-2017 biennial budget at the May Forest Practices Board meeting.

New Work

Small Forest Landowners' Alternate Template

In spring 2015, the Board received a proposal initiation from the Small Forest Landowners (SFLOs) caucus to develop an alternate template for westside harvest. The AMPA presented Policy with recommendations for both policy and technical tasks, and a Policy subgroup formed to address the policy tasks. The subgroup Co-Chairs have met a few times to organize themselves and the task at hand, and convened two subgroup meetings in fall 2015. Due to this being an additional workload priority, the Board directed Policy to work on this issue only if time is available after having been prioritized for Type F discussions. It is our understanding that the SFLOs intend to also ask for an eastside alternate template, which will likely incorporate lessons learned from the westside template.

Upcoming Work in 2016

- Type F (including electrofishing, off-channel habitat, criteria for physicals, and others),
- Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Study,
- SFLOs Westside Alternate Template,
- UMPPF Board Manual completion, and
- Additional CMER studies coming to Policy (timelines and specific studies unknown at this point).

The Policy Committee workload is heavy, yet must also remain sensitive to the changes in various timelines and to new issues as they come up. The capacity for Policy to accept any new work as assigned by the Forest Practices Board or taken on for other reasons could require delaying existing priorities and/or scheduling additional meetings.

Encl: Type F Matrix

cc: Forest Practices Board Liaisons
TFW Policy

12/30/2015 AWM

DRAFT-----TFW Policy Committee----DRAFT

Type F Matrix - Board Motion to Completion

Policy Priority in addition to Board Motion	Next Step/Pending	Final Action/Product/Target Date TBD
	Completed	Policy Action/Decision

Board Motion Language		Board Motion Language or TFW Policy Identified Task	Status/Plan/Assignee	Target Date	Intermediate Task/Assignee	Target Date	Outcome/Product/Decision maker	Process Informed	Target Date	Final Policy Recommendations	Target Date
1. Policy is directed to complete recommendations for options on a permanent water typing rule, beginning with two tasks to be completed and reported to the Board at the May, 2014 meeting:	1.a. Development of "best practices" recommendations regarding protocol survey electrofishing, including an evaluation of relevant literature, minimizing potential site-specific impacts to Incidental Take Permit covered species, and options for reducing the overall extent of the surveys' use.	Protocol E-fishing lit synthesis	Policy, with the support of the AMPA, convenes a technical group of practitioners with representation from caucuses to identify best practices regarding electrofishing within the context of protocol surveys (including a literature synthesis), including: • How to reduce site-specific impacts of practices of protocol survey electrofishing • How to reduce overall extent of the surveys' use.	Aug-15	Cochairs and AMPA present technical group product to Policy to include identification of any gaps in science and any areas of suggested focus in order to identify or address BMPs, methods to minimize survey's use and site specific impacts to ITP species.	Apr-16	Policy take action to propose rule change (may include a proposal initiation that results in new research, a look past research findings, or a policy analysis); guidance change (may include a change in guidance on protocol surveys or how e-fishing is used) or create new training.	Potential: Policy and/or science track (Proposal Initiation response from AMPA); Board Manual changes; training development		For each element moving through the adaptive management process, TFW Policy will have to decide first if we want to take action in response to the information provided by the adaptive management process. Presuming that TFW Policy agrees to take action in response to that information; this could include recommending rule changes, board manual guidance, agency process changes (with concurrence from the agency), additional scientific review, or any combination thereof. TFW Policy may also identify additional issues related to this topic outside of the scope of the original Board motion and will be developing a workplan for those issues consistent with the adaptive management program.	
		Evaluation of Lit Synthesis Protocol Survey E-Fishing BMPs Minimize potential site specific impacts to ITP species Options for reducing overall extent of survey's use	Policy reviews a draft technical group workplan which will include a list of the documents that the technical group will review/consider and also those suggested by Policy that they consider irrelevant Policy will approve the technical group's workplan with any edits necessary.	Dec-15	Policy Consider recommendations from tech group and refine path forward for each (i.e. proposal initiation; propose Board Manual change; suggest areas of needed training						
		Understanding the use of protocol surveys/Electro Fishing	Conduct a TFW Policy electrofishing workshop to understand the current use of protocol surveys and how electrofishing is being used.	Feb-15							
			WDFW, USFWS, NOAA present the current scientific collection permit process and how E-fishing is permitted.	Jul-15	AMPA work with WDFW, USFWS, NOAA identify potential data sharing opportunities and process to get data from scientific collection permit reports to help develop, confirm, inform model, map and protocol development/assessment	Oct-15					
	1.a.i Not Part of Board Motion - Review of Physicals Criteria		TFW Policy to develop	Feb-16			Policy determine if physical criteria needs to change; determine if rule or Board Manual need to change;				
	1.b. An evaluation of the current rule process to identify off-channel habitat (OCH) under the interim water typing rule, including recommended clarifications in field implementation guidance, or rule language. The evaluation must be based, in part, on field review of approved FPAs and WTMFs.	Evaluate current rule process to id OCH	Policy field tours on westside and eastside to see OCH protection in practice and intial review of rule language by eastside tribes and SFLOs;	Apr-15	DNR has developed a proposal review packet with discussion and input from Policy, to move OCH discussions into a formal procedure with timelines.	Oct-15	TFW Policy approved on October 1, 2015 a modifidied version of the AMPA's recommendations which includes: 1) Policy subcommittee on existing language, 2) OCH Technical group, 3) OCH WTMF Evaluation subgroup		1) July 2016, 2) April 2016, 3) April 2016		
		Recommend clarifications in field implementation, guidance and/or rule	Policy review the existing guiding language in Act, Rule, and FFR establishing bankfull width and depth to calculate the edge of the stream and OCH, and the start of the riparian management zone								
		Field review of approved FPAs and WTMFs.	Perform field reviews of approved FPAs and water type mod. forms; visits to determine if this description adequately covers off channel habitat as currently described in rule.	Apr-15							
			Review the existing science based definitions of OCH connected at bankfull elevation as intended in the forest practices rules and the FFR								
			Review OCH description developed during Policy field site visits to determine if it adequately covers OCH as described in rule	Apr-15							
	Desktop Review of approved WTMF		DNR and Co Chairs to Develp Specific proposal	Feb-16							
2. AMPA to scope and initiate a pilot project to re-run the existing hydrologic model using LiDAR data, including at least two watersheds (west and east). Objectives include:	2.a. Develop quantitative information about the "footprint" of the interim rule;	Work with GIS experts to develop a scope of work to compare a 10 m DEM and a 2 m DEM that is LiDAR based to evaluate potential improvements of a water typing model.	Execute a contract that compares the original water type model (10 m DEM) to a 2 m LiDAR based DEM in two basins (east and west).	Nov-15			Create Draft GIS hydrography map (based on an updated model) using best available data.	As determined: Develop, revise, and/or update a water-typing model in accordance with the HCP and on which to base the rule of identifying Type F waters.			
	2.b. Compare model-based water type designations to on-the-ground FPAs and WTMFs;		Execute a contract that compares the original model (10 m DEM) and LiDAR based 2 m DEM (see above) with biological survey results from WTMFs.	Nov-15			Identify the technical issues related to the use of the model and map. Twig/Technical group review of model/map issues.				
	2.c. Investigate additional model utility, such as detection of OCH, ability to predict physicals and assess footprint effects from using different physicals;		Test a LiDAR 2 m DEM in the two basins (east and west) to determine if OCH can be predicted. Follow up initial pilot work with field evaluation of physical habitat. Compare field data with remotely sensed data to determine if physical criteria can be predicted.	Dec-15			Determine if further changes are needed to the Water Typing System.	Water Type Modification Process			
	2.d. Provide information that can inform the Board's basic administrative choices among "map-as-rule" vs. "guidance map with field adjustments".	Collate electrofishing work and model results to evaluate options to inform an approach for water typing.	Following the pilot LiDAR evaluation and electrofishing BMP work, a group of practitioners and scientists will need to make recommendations to TFW Policy for review of options for the Board.	May-16							16-Nov